

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

--1-5. (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) The wire stripper of claim 11, wherein the working edge of the first lever member includes a first set of incrementally sized recesses opening inwardly and the working edge of the second lever member includes a second set of incrementally sized recesses opening inwardly and aligned with the first set so that when the wire stripper is in the closed position the first and second set of recesses form incrementally sized openings for stripping insulation from an insulated conductor.

7. (currently amended) The wire stripper of claim 11, ~~further including a wherein the biasing member is a spring biasing apart the handles of the first and second lever members.~~

8. (previously presented) The wire stripper of claim 11, wherein a tip of each jaw includes an inwardly extending toothed section.

9. (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) The wire stripper of claim 22, wherein the first and second cutting blade sections each taper from their working edge in at least two oblique angles with respect to the working edge.

11. (currently amended) A hand held wire stripper has a first lever member pivotally joined to a second lever member about a hinge point, each lever member has an elongate handle and an offset jaw with a working edge positioned such that a working edge of the first lever member is adjacent a working edge of the other

second lever member when in a closed position, the working edges being biased apart in an open position by a biasing member extending between the handles of the first and second lever members, each elongated handle has a rear grip and a forward grip separated by an outward extension, the forward grips extend forward from the outward extensions toward the hinge point so as to receive a thumb and forefinger of a user and allow gripping of the handles adjacent the hinge point between the hinge point and the biasing member, wherein the forward grips are concave opening in a direction away from a centerline extending through the hinge point and along the working edges when in the closed position, wherein the rear grip of the handle of the first lever member is generally concave opening toward a centerline extending through the hinge point and along the working edges when in the closed position and wherein the rear grip of the handle of the second lever member has a first segment adjacent the outward extension that is concave away from the centerline and a second segment adjacent the first segment that is concave toward the centerline, wherein the handle of the first lever member intersects the centerline and the handle of the second lever is disposed on the side of the centerline opposite the handle of the first lever member.

12. (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) The wire stripper of claim 11, wherein the forward grips are defined by radii within a range of approximately 1 to 2 inches.

14-18. (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) The wire stripper of claim 11, wherein the rear grip of the handle of the second lever member has a third segment adjacent the second segment and at an end opposite the hinge point that is concave away from the centerline and defines a finger retaining lip.

20. (cancelled)

21. (original) The wire stripper of claim 11, wherein each of the rear grips defines at least one raised projection on an outer portion thereof adjacent the outward extensions.

22. (previously presented) The wire stripper of claim 11, wherein the working edge of the first lever member includes a first cutting blade section and the working edge of the second lever member includes a second cutting blade section aligned with the first cutting blade.

23. (previously presented) The wire stripper of claim 22, wherein the first and second cutting blade sections each define a plurality of serrations such that the serrations of the first cutting blade section of the first lever member are aligned with the serrations of the second cutting blade section of the second lever member.

24. (previously presented) The wire stripper of claim 22, wherein the first and second cutting blade sections define a first acute angle surface adjacent the working edge and a second acute angle surface of an angle greater than the first surface and spaced from the working edge by the first surface.--